

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 4 is amended into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending, with claims 1 and 4 being independent.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, specifically that claims 1, 5, and 6 are allowed and that claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102


Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,773,924 (Nakamura). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 25, 2004



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